

REMARKS

Claims 1, 2, 4-8 and 10-23 are pending in the application. Claims 1, 2, 4-8 and 10-23 are rejected. Claims 1, 7, 13-19, and 21-23 have been amended. Claim 20 is canceled.

Claims 1, 2, 4-8 and 10-23 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being allegedly unpatentable over Sigler et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,717,830) in view of Balasuriya (U.S. Patent No. 6,411,815) and Cassidy et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,537,684). Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection.

The Applicants respectfully submit that claim 1 has been amended in a manner to render the rejection moot. In the applied references, there are no teachings or suggestions of at the least the features of “priority levels are dynamically assigned and a priority assigned to a particular communication device is a fixed value defined in a database maintained by a session initiation protocol (SIP) server and an arbitration algorithm is used to arbitrate conflicts and this algorithm can be individually configured on a per net basis.”

The support for this claim amendment is found on page 37, paragraph [0189] of the specification.

Therefore, it is respectfully submitted that the rejection be withdrawn and that claim 1 be allowed.

Claims 2 and 4-6 are dependent claims that depend upon claim 1 and should be allowed for at least the same reasons presented above regarding claim 1 as well as the additional features recited in these claims.

Independent claims 7 and 13-19, and 21-23 have been amended in a related manner to claim 1 and should be allowed for at least the same reasons presented above regarding claim 1 as well as the additionally recited features found in these claims.

Claims 8 and 10-12 are dependent claims that depend upon their respective independent claims and should be allowed for at least the same reasons presented above as well as the additional features recited in these claims.

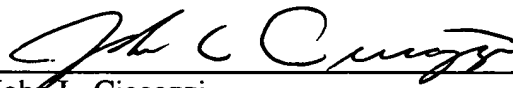
CONCLUSION

In light of the amendments contained herein, Applicants submit that the application is in condition for allowance, for which early action is requested.

Please charge any fees or overpayments that may be due with this response to Deposit Account No. 17-0026.

Respectfully submitted,

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